

Overview (About Penile Implants)

Penile implants are devices placed inside the penis to allow men with erectile dysfunction (ED) to get an erection. Penile implants are typically recommended after oral medications and intrapenile injection treatments for ED fail.

There are two main types of penile implants, semirigid and inflatable. Each type of penile implant works differently and has various pros and cons.

The placement of penile implants requires surgery. Before choosing penile implants, make sure you understand what surgery involves, including possible risks, complications and follow-up care.

Why it's done

For most men, erectile dysfunction can be successfully treated with medications or intrapenile injection or use of a penis pump (vacuum constriction device). You might consider penile implants if you aren't a candidate for other treatments or you can't get an erection sufficient for sexual activity by using other methods.

Penile implants can also be used to treat severe cases of a condition that causes scarring inside the penis, leading to curved, painful erections (Peyronie's disease).

Penile implants aren't for everyone. Caution should be exercised in case of penile implants if :

- An infection, such as a pulmonary infection or urinary tract infection
- Diabetes that isn't well controlled or significant heart disease

While penile implants allow men to get an erection, they don't increase sexual desire or sensation. Penile implants also won't make your penis any larger than it is at the time of surgery.

Risks

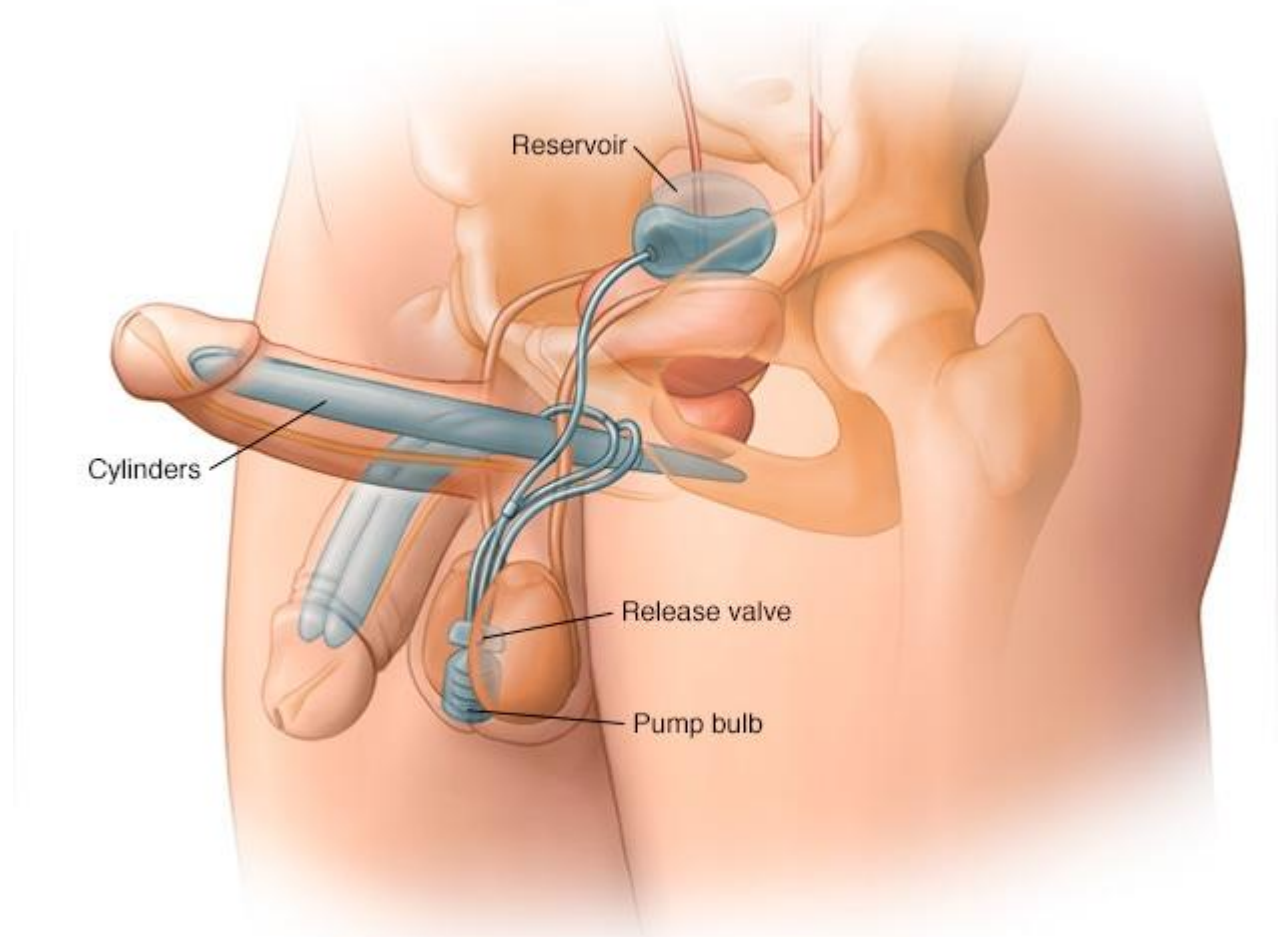
Risks of penile implant surgery include:

- **Infection.** As with any surgery, infection is possible(1%). You might be at an increased risk of infection if you have a spinal cord injury or diabetes.(2%)
- **Implant problems.** New penile implant designs are reliable, but in rare cases the implants malfunction. Surgery is necessary to repair or replace a broken implant, but a broken device can be left in place if you don't want another surgery.
- **Internal erosion or adhesion.** In some cases, an implant might stick to the skin inside the penis or wear away the skin from inside the penis. Rarely, an implant breaks through the skin. These problems are sometimes linked to an infection.

How you prepare

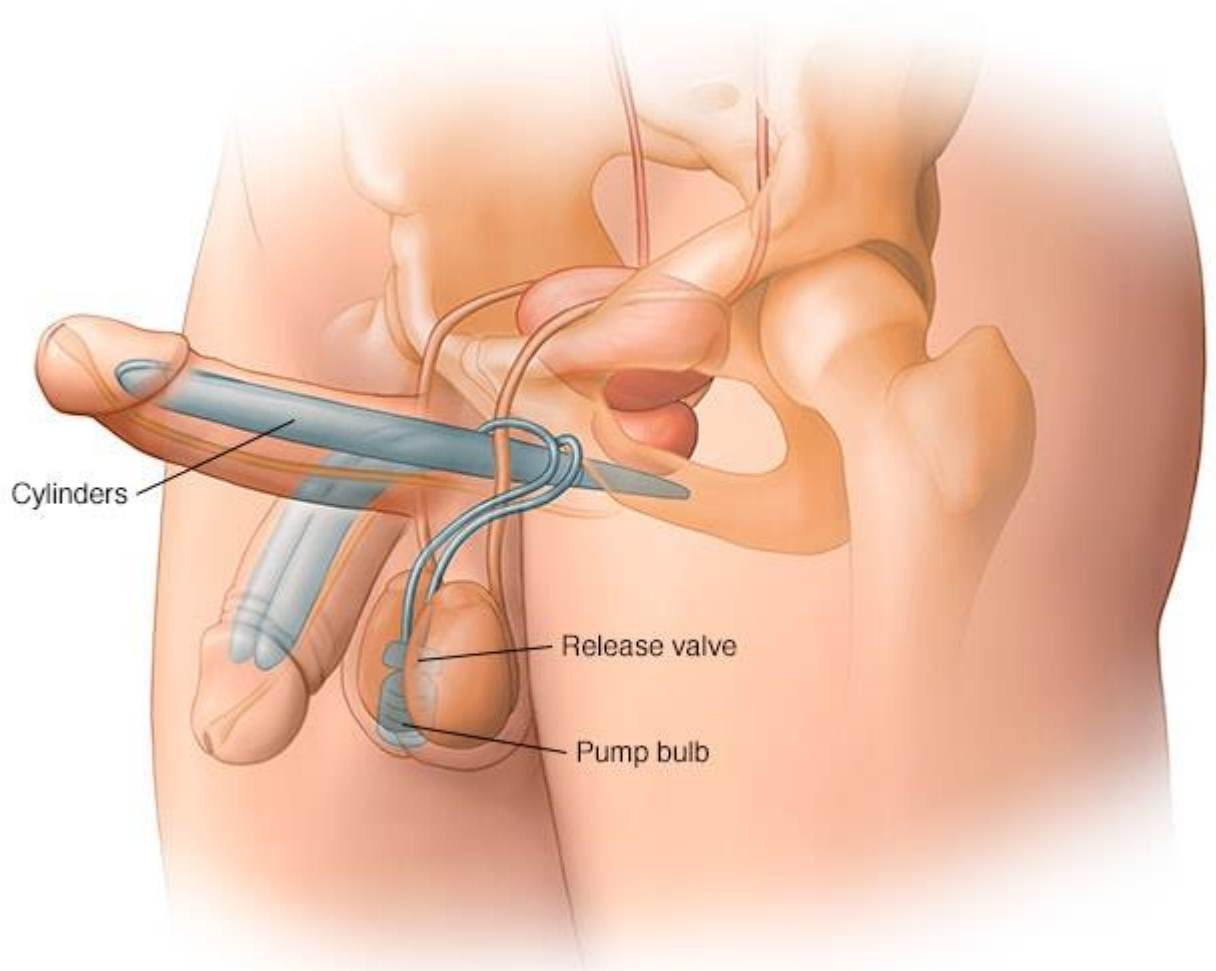
- **Review your medical history.** Current and past medical conditions. Past history of any surgery , ailments and treatment .
- **Physical exam** including a complete urologic exam to confirm the presence and nature of ED , to confirm the refractory nature of ED. Confirm presence of manual dexterity to be able to make use of the implant correctly .
- **Discuss your expectations.** Make sure you understand what the procedure involves and the type of penile implant that suits you best. Remember that the procedure is considered permanent and irreversible. The length of the penis remains constant even after surgery . Preoperative assessment of the penile length helps deteri

Types of penile implants



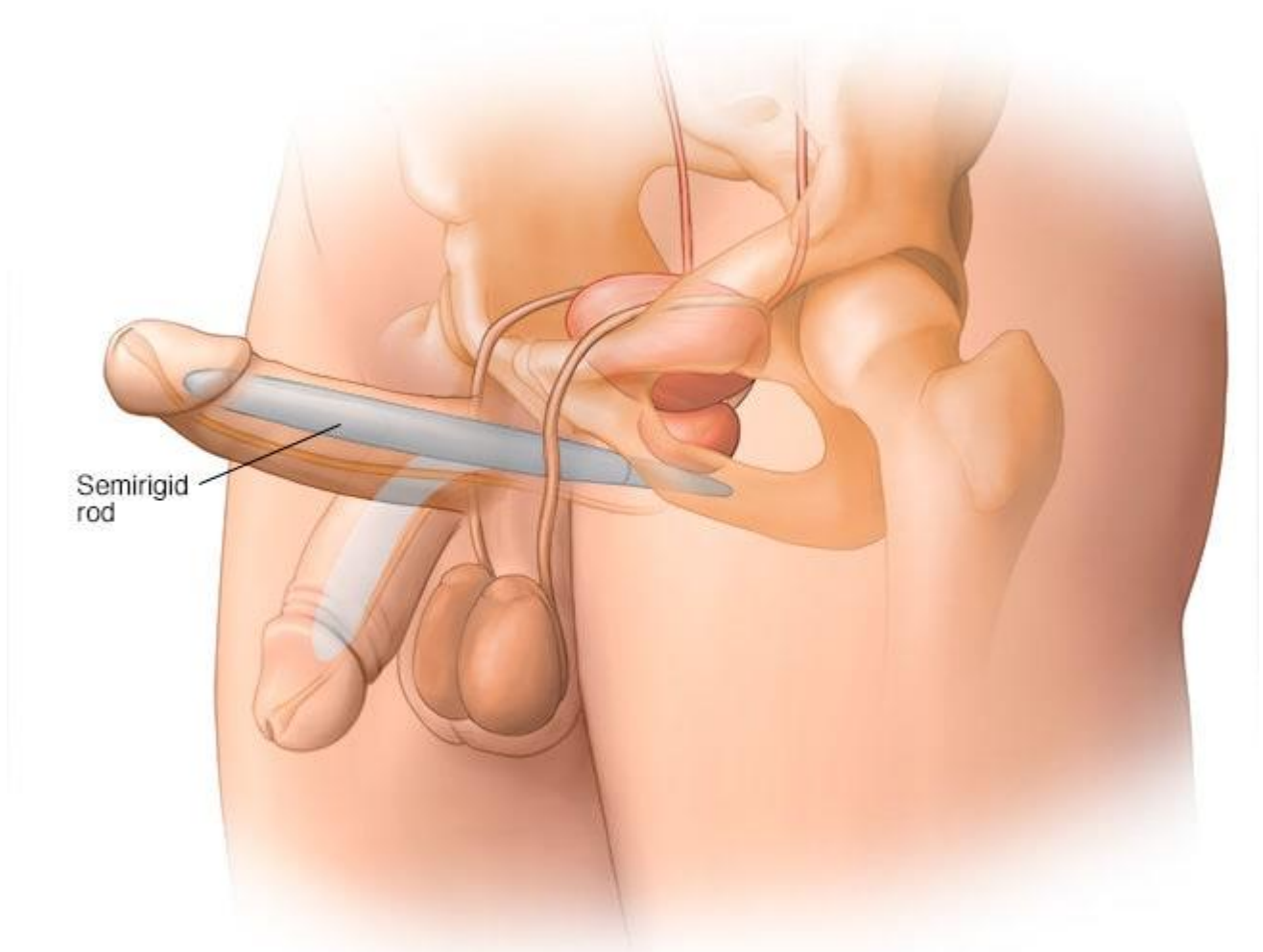
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3-piece penile implant Open pop-up dialog box



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2-piece penile implantOpen pop-up dialog box



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Semirigid penile implant

There are two main types of penile implants:

- **Inflatable implants.** Inflatable devices, the most common type of penile implant, can be inflated to create an erection and deflated at other times. Three-piece inflatable implants use a fluid-filled reservoir implanted under the abdominal wall, a pump and a release valve placed inside the scrotum, and two inflatable cylinders inside the penis.

To achieve an erection, you pump the fluid, which is salt water, from the reservoir into the cylinders. Afterward, you release the valve inside the scrotum to drain the fluid back into the reservoir.

The two-piece model works in a similar way, but the fluid reservoir is part of the pump implanted in the scrotum. In both devices, the reservoir is filled with salt water the day of surgery and remains in the device.

- **Semirigid rods.** Semirigid devices are always firm. The penis can be bent away from the body for sexual activity and toward the body for concealment.

A positionable penile implant is a semirigid device with a central series of segments held together with a spring on each end. It can maintain upward and downward positions better than other semirigid rods can.

Other special designs can fit a shortened penis or one that's larger than average. Inflatable penile implants are also available with antibiotic coatings, which might help reduce the risk of infection, and coatings to reduce friction, possibly lengthening the life of the implant.

Comparing implant types

When choosing a type of penile implant, consider your personal preference and your medical history. Your health care provider might suggest one type of design over another based on your age, risk of infection, and health conditions, injuries or medical treatments you've had.

Type of penile implant	Pros	Cons
Three-piece inflatable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates the most natural, rigid erection • Provides flaccidity when deflated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has more parts that could malfunction than does any other implant • Requires a reservoir inside the abdomen or underneath the

Type of penile implant	Pros	Cons
		abdominal muscles
Two-piece inflatable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides partial flaccidity when deflated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is mechanically more complicated than is a semirigid implant Provides less-firm erections than does a three-piece implant
Semirigid rod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a low chance of malfunction due to the small number of parts Is easy to use for those with limited mental or manual dexterity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results in a penis that is always slightly rigid Puts constant pressure on the inside of the penis, which can cause injury Can be difficult to conceal under clothing

Before penile implant surgery you might also need to:

- **Avoid certain medications.** Your health care provider might recommend that you temporarily stop taking aspirin and anti-inflammatory drugs, which can increase your risk of bleeding.
- **Arrange for a ride home.** Ask your health care provider when you'll be able to go home after surgery. Penile implant surgery might involve an overnight stay.
- **Limit food and liquids.** Don't eat or drink anything after midnight before your surgery. Follow instructions from your health care provider.

What you can expect

Before the procedure

Penile implant surgery is usually done at a surgery center or hospital. Your health care provider might give you medication to make you unconscious during the surgery (general anesthesia) or medication that blocks pain in the lower part of your body (spinal anesthesia).

Your health care provider will give you IV antibiotics to help prevent infection. The surgery site will also be washed with an alcohol-based antibiotic solution and shaved before surgery to reduce the risk of infection.

During surgery

A tube (catheter) might be inserted into your bladder via your penis to collect urine at some point during surgery. Your surgeon will make an incision below the head of the penis, at the base of the penis or in the lower abdomen.

Next, your surgeon will stretch the spongy tissue in the penis that would normally fill with blood during an erection. This tissue is inside each of two hollow chambers called the corpora cavernosa.

Your surgeon will choose the correct size implant and place the implant cylinders inside your penis. All sizes are customized to your body measurements.

If your surgeon is implanting a two-piece inflatable device, a pump and valve are placed inside the scrotum. For a three-piece device, he or she will also implant a

fluid reservoir above or under the abdominal wall using the initial incision. Sometimes a second incision in the abdomen is used.

Once the device is in place, your surgeon will sew the incisions closed. Penile implant surgery usually takes 45 minutes to an hour.

After surgery

After penile implant surgery, you'll likely need to take medications to ease pain. Often Intravenous pain killers are given in the hospital post surgery. Post discharge pain killers might be required till one week . Mild pain might persist for several weeks. You might be given an antibiotic to be taken by mouth for a week.

Most men can resume strenuous physical activity and sexual activity about 4 to 6 weeks after surgery.

After you learn how to use the device, usually 3 to 6 weeks after surgery recommend inflating and deflating inflatable penile implants to give you practice using them and stretch the area surrounding the cylinders.

In case of malleable prosthesis sexual intercourse can be resumed 6 weeks after the surgery .

Results

Although penile implants are the most invasive treatment for erectile dysfunction, most men who have them and their partners report satisfaction with the devices. In fact, penile implants have the highest rate of satisfaction of all erectile dysfunction treatments.